

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY ARA:WDROGERS:CJS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 261664

EXDIS TOSEC 550

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UY, PE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT VELASCO'S ACCUSATIONS

REF: (A) TOSEC 406, (B) SECTO PEKING 2114

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ACTING SECRETARY AND ROGERS

1. ON REFLECTION IT MAY BE THAT OUR EARLIER VERSION (REF A) WAS HEAVY-HANDED ENOUGH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE "PROTESTING TOO MUCH." WE DO THINK, HOWEVER, THAT A MORE MUTED STATEMENT TO THE URUGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER COULD BE IMPORTANT TO HIS INTERESTS AS WELL AS OURS. THE VELASCO CHARGES HAVE RAISED QUESTIONS IN THE MINDS OF A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN MONTEVIDEO. OUR SILENCE COULD BE TAKEN AS CONFIRMATION. WE SUGGEST YOU AUTHORIZE SIRACUSA TO MAKE AN ORAL STATEMENT ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: MR. MINISTER. IT IS PERHAPS UNNECESSARY, BUT I SHOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU MY ASSURANCE THAT CERTAIN RECENT PUBLISHED REPORTS ABOUT ME AND ABOUT OUR OFFICE DIRECTOR IN WASHINGTON, MR. ORTIZ, ARE UNFOUNDED. I AM NOT AND
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HAVE NOT BEEN A MEMBER OF THE CIA. I SERVED MY PRESCRIBED

TIME IN LIMA, WAS NOT REQUESTED TO BE WITHDRAWN AND WHEN
I LEFT I WAS HONORED BY EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP ON THE
PART OF A NUMBER OF SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE PRESENT
PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT. OF COURSE, I SAY THIS TO YOU PRIVATELY
NOT IN ORDER TO FEED A CONTROVERSY WITH ANYONE IN PER-,

BUT TO AVOID HERE ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WITHIN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY IN WHICH I AM PRESENTLY
HONORED TO SERVE. END OF STATEMENT. INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

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